



U.S. law based on anti-Latino racism fuels immigration fight



In this photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, people who've been taken into custody related to cases of illegal entry into the United States rest in one of the cages at a facility in McAllen, Texas, on June 17, 2018.

By RIO YAMAT
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — As thousands of children were taken from their parents at the southern border during a Trump administration crackdown on illegal crossings, a federal public defender in San Diego set out to find new strategies to go after the longstanding deportation law fueling the family separations.

The resulting legal defense that Kara Hartzler would help draft in the coming years — work that continued even after a judge halted the general practice at the U.S.-Mexico border in June 2018 — was un-

precedented.

It exposed Section 1326 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which makes it a crime to unlawfully return to the U.S. after deportation, removal or denied admission, as racist and a violation of equal protection rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. And it became the legal framework for a never-before-seen ruling in August 2021 by Nevada U.S. District Judge Miranda Du. She struck down the law as unconstitutional and discriminatory against Latinos when she dismissed an illegal reentry charge against Mexican immigrant Gustavo Carrillo Lopez,

though she didn't block enforcement and prosecutions haven't stopped as the government appeals the case.

Du's 43-page ruling cited much of Hartzler's legal defense. "The record before the Court reflects that at no point has Congress confronted the racist, nativist roots of Section 1326," the judge wrote.

Hartzler, who has spent the last decade as a federal public defender in California, said she was blown away when she learned of the ruling.

Continued on Page 2

Aruba elects Prins and Pancho 2023



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U.S. law based on anti-Latino racism fuels immigration fight

Continued from Front

"When you've been working in law for as long as I have, you know that just because you're legally right doesn't mean you always win," she said. "There's a lot of forces at work in making legal decisions."

The potentially precedent-setting case has been in legal limbo for more than a year as a federal court in California considers the Justice Department's appeal defending the law. Despite the ongoing battle in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Nevada case has shined a national spotlight on the little-known history of Section 1326.

"It really is an ill-understood law when you think about the degree to which it is based on explicitly racist and white supremacist ideology," said Sirine Shebaya, executive director of the nonprofit National Immigration Project.

Section 1326, along with its misdemeanor counterpart Section 1325, which criminalizes unauthorized entry, was enacted by Congress in 1952. But the law's origins can be traced back a century to the 1920s — a decade described by UCLA history professor and leading Section 1326 researcher Kelly Lytle Hernandez as



In this photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, people who've been taken into custody related to cases of illegal entry into the United States, sit in one of the cages at a facility in McAllen, Texas, on June 17, 2018.

Associated Press

"a time when the Ku Klux Klan was reborn, Jim Crow came of age, and public intellectuals preached the science of eugenics."

Many of the key elements that formed the legal defense now being considered by the 9th Circuit came from Hernandez's findings on Section 1326's discriminatory background. With Congress' sights in the 1920s set on legislation that would block "undesirable" immigration, the National Origins Act of 1924 was enacted,

establishing a cap on how many immigrants could enter the U.S. under a system that reserved 96% of slots for European immigrants and included a total ban on Asian immigrants. Exempt from that system, however, were immigrants from the Western Hemisphere, including Mexico. Hernandez, who was called as an expert witness in the Nevada case, said the exception came as a compromise between nativist lawmakers and em-

ployers who had come to rely heavily on cheap labor from Mexico. But before the decade's end, South Carolina Sen. Coleman Livingston Blease would orchestrate a new deal with employers that led to the Undesirable Aliens Act of 1929. Under this new law, unauthorized entry into the U.S. became illegal, allowing Congress to limit immigration from Mexico without implementing an outright ban. Blease, Hernandez

said, was a "proud white supremacist" who advocated for segregation and defended lynching. "That alone requires some reckoning with."

Nearly a century later, the Justice Department has conceded that the 1929 law was motivated by racism. But in oral arguments in early December before the 9th Circuit, an attorney for the U.S. government argued later revisions — like Section 1326 — made it constitutional.

Du's ruling, however, points out that the 1952 revision establishing Section 1326 had adopted language "word for word" from the 1929 legislation, and since then, penalties — that range from prison time to permanent deportation — have stiffened at least five times. Justice Department attorneys have also conceded that Section 1326 "bears more heavily on Mexican and Latinx individuals," but argued the disparity is "a product of geography, not discrimination," as well as "a feature of Mexico's proximity to the United States, the history of Mexican employment patterns, and other socio-political and economic factors that drive migration from Mexico to the United States." □



A USPS employee works outside post office in Wheeling, Ill., Dec. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service delivered more than 54 million ballots for the midterm election, with nearly 99% of ballots delivered to election officials within three days, of-

ficials said Monday. The Postal Service's post-election analysis showed that on average it took under two days to deliver completed ballots. "These results speak for

U.S. Postal Service touts performance during 2022 election

themselves," said Amber McReynolds, chair of the Postal Service Board of Governors Election Mail Committee.

By the end of the Dec. 6 Georgia Senate runoff, the Postal Service had delivered 54.4 million ballots to and from voters, officials said. They added that the number could be even higher because the report doesn't take into account ballots that were diverted from the normal flow to accelerate delivery and ballots that were not properly identified.

The Postal Service was dogged by backlogs and questions ahead of the

2020 presidential election in which a record-setting number of ballots were cast.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy was criticized that year for restricting overtime, ending the longtime practice of late deliveries and dismantling some sorting machines ahead of the election, and a federal judge faulted him for failing to get an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission before implementing some of those changes.

But there were no such complaints in 2022. And the Postal Service created a permanent election and

government mail division to deal with election matters. "We take great pride in the role our organization plays in the vote-by-mail process,"

DeJoy said Monday in a statement. "The American people can continue to feel confident in using the U.S. mail to fulfill their democratic duty."

For the midterm election, 98.96% of general election ballots were delivered from voters to election officials within three days — besting the 2020 performance by about 1 percentage point — and 99.93% were delivered within seven days, the report said. □

Ga. special grand jury ends probe of Trump, 2020 election

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The special grand jury in Atlanta that has been investigating whether then-President Donald Trump and his allies committed any crimes while trying to overturn his 2020 election loss in Georgia has finished its work, bringing the case closer to possible criminal charges against Trump and others. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney, who was overseeing the panel, issued a two-page order Monday dissolving the special grand jury, saying it had completed its work and submitted a final report. The lengthy investigation has been one of several around the country that threaten legal peril for Trump as he mounts a third bid for the White House. The decision whether to seek an indictment from a regular grand jury will be up to Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis. Willis spokesperson Jeff DiSantis said the office had no comment on the completion of the panel's work. McBurney wrote in his order that the special grand jury recommended that its report be made public. He scheduled a hearing for Jan. 24 to determine whether all or part of the report should be released and said the district attorney's office and news outlets would be given an opportunity to make argu-



Former President Donald Trump pauses as he speaks at a rally Jan. 15, 2022, in Florence, Ariz. Associated Press

ments at that hearing. Since June, the special grand jury has heard testimony from dozens of witnesses, including numerous close Trump associates such as the former New York mayor and Trump attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. Assorted high-ranking Georgia officials have also testified, among them Gov. Brian Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. Last month, the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection asserted in its final report that Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and

failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol. The report concluded an extraordinary 18-month investigation into the former president and the violent attack. Special grand juries in Georgia cannot issue indictments but instead can issue a final report recommending actions to be taken. Willis opened the investigation in early 2021, shortly after a recording surfaced of a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call between Trump and Raffensperger. During that call, the president suggested the state's top elections official could "find" the votes needed to overturn his loss in the state. "I just want to find 11,780

votes, which is one more than we have," Trump had said. "Because we won the state." Since then it has become clear that Willis has been focusing on several different areas: phone calls made to Georgia officials by Trump and his allies; false statements made by Trump associates before Georgia legislative committees; a panel of 16 Republicans who signed a certificate falsely stating that Trump had won the state and that they were the state's "duly elected and qualified" electors; the abrupt resignation of the U.S. attorney in Atlanta in January 2021; alleged attempts to pressure a Fulton County election worker; and a breach

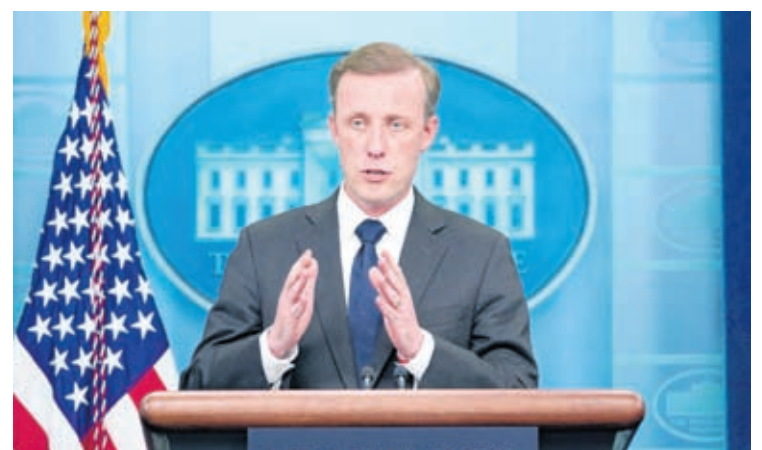
of election equipment in a rural south Georgia county. Lawyers for Giuliani confirmed in August that prosecutors told them he could possibly face criminal charges in the case. The 16 Republican fake electors have also been told they are targets of the investigation, according to public court filings. It is possible that others have also been notified they are targets of the investigation. Trump and his allies have consistently denied any wrongdoing, with the former president repeatedly describing his call with Raffensperger as "perfect" and dismissing Willis' investigation as a "strictly political Witch Hunt!" Willis took the unusual step in January 2022 of requesting that a special grand jury be seated to aid the investigation. She noted that a special grand jury would have subpoena power which would help compel testimony from witnesses who were otherwise unwilling to participate in the investigation. In a letter asking the court to impanel the special grand jury, Willis wrote that her office had received information indicating a "reasonable probability" that Georgia's 2020 election, including the presidential race, "was subject to possible criminal disruptions." Her request was granted and the special grand jury was seated in May. □

U.S. says Iran may be 'contributing' to war crimes in Ukraine

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Biden administration said Monday that Iran's sale of lethal drones to Russia for use in its ongoing invasion of Ukraine means the country may be "contributing to widespread war crimes." National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan leveled the charge against Iran on Monday as he spoke to reporters accompanying President Joe Biden on a trip to Mexico. While it did not signal a policy shift,

the charge marked some of the sharpest U.S. rhetoric against Iran since it began providing weapons to Russia to support its nearly year-long war in Ukraine. It comes as the U.S. and European partners are looking to further ostracize both nations in the court of public opinion, as they face challenges with physically stopping the transfers of weapons on which Russia is increasingly reliant. Sullivan said Iran had chosen "to go

down a road where their weapons are being used to kill civilians in Ukraine and to try to plunge cities into cold and darkness, which from our point of view, puts Iran in a place where it could potentially be contributing to widespread war crimes." Sullivan pointed to European and U.S. sanctions on Iran put in place after the U.S. exposed Iran's weapons sales to Russia last year as examples of how they are trying to "make these



White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

transactions more difficult." But he acknowledged that "the way that they are ac-

tually carrying them out physically makes physical interdiction a challenge." □

Justices turn away Israeli spyware maker in WhatsApp suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an Israeli spyware maker's bid to derail a high-profile lawsuit filed by the WhatsApp messaging service.

The justices left in place lower court rulings against the Israeli firm, NSO Group. WhatsApp claims that NSO targeted some 1,400 users of the encrypted messaging service with highly sophisticated spyware. WhatsApp parent Facebook, now called Meta Platforms Inc., is trying to block NSO from Facebook platforms and servers and recover unspecified damages.

NSO argued that it should be recognized as a foreign government agent and therefore be entitled to immunity under U.S. law limiting lawsuits against foreign countries. The request appeals a pair of earlier federal court rulings that rejected similar arguments by the Israeli company.

The Biden administration recommended that the court turn away the appeal. The Justice Department wrote that "NSO plainly is not entitled to immunity here."

NSO's flagship product, Pegasus, allows operators



An American flag waves in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, June 27, 2022. Associated Press

to covertly infiltrate a target's mobile phone, gaining access to messages and contacts, the camera and microphone and location history. Only government law enforcement agencies can purchase the product and all sales are approved by Israel's Defense Ministry, NSO said. It does not identify its clients.

WhatsApp says at least 100 of the users connected to its lawsuit were journal-

ists, rights activists and civil society members. Critics have said that NSO's clients include Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Poland and that those countries have abused the system to snoop on critics and stifle dissent.

NSO said it has safeguards in place to prevent abuses, although the company also said it has no control over how its clients use the product. The WhatsApp

case is among a series of legal battles plaguing NSO. In a separate lawsuit, Apple says it aims to prevent NSO from breaking into products. It claimed Pegasus had affected a small number of iPhone users worldwide, calling NSO's employees "amoral 21st century mercenaries."

In November, journalists from an investigative news outlet in El Salvador also sued NSO in a U.S. court after Pegasus spyware was

detected on their iPhones. "NSO's spyware has enabled cyberattacks targeting human rights activists, journalists, and government officials. We firmly believe that their operations violate U.S. law and they must be held to account for their unlawful operations," WhatsApp spokesperson Carl Woog said in a statement.

A lawyer for the journalists who sued also praised the court's action. "Today's decision clears the path for lawsuits brought by the tech companies, as well as for suits brought by journalists and human rights advocates who have been victims of spyware attacks," Carrie DeCell, senior staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, said in a statement.

In its own statement, NSO said: "We are confident that the court will determine that the use of Pegasus by its customers was legal."

NSO also has been blacklisted by the U.S. Commerce Department, limiting its access to U.S. technology. U.S. officials said the company's products were complicit in "transnational repression." □

Migrant repatriations continue as Florida steps up patrols

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard repatriated 273 migrants to Matanzas, Cuba, over the week-

end following interdictions off the Florida Keys. While more than 4,400 migrants from Cuba and

Haiti have made their way by boat to the state since August, more than 700 migrants arrived in the Florida Keys over New Year's weekend, officials said. Many arrived on makeshift, motorized rafts used to make the dangerous 100-mile (160-kilometer) journey from the communist island across the dangerous Florida Straits.

That led Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday to mobilize the Florida National Guard. The National Guard did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the mobilization.

However, the governor

said in a statement Friday that the state will deploy airplanes, helicopter and marine patrols to the area "to support water interdictions and ensure the safety of migrants attempting to reach Florida through the Florida Straits."

There was no official word on the number of migrants landing in the Florida Keys over the weekend.

In a statement sent Monday, the ACLU of Florida condemned the governor's actions, saying the migrants are taking to the sea to flee "extreme political and economic distress in their home countries."

"As migrants arrive at our

shore, our number one priority as a state should be to ensure that every person is safe, healthy, cared for, and treated humanely," Tiffani Lennon, the ACLU's executive director, said.

"Instead of politicizing the issue, elected officials must work with groups on the ground and assist organizations that have stepped up to welcome and support migrants and people seeking asylum," Lennon said.

On Friday, DeSantis criticized Democratic President Joe Biden and the federal government's immigration policies and response to the migrants landing in the Keys. □



Buses carrying Cuban migrants leave from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Key West, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, in Key West, Fla. Associated Press

Mexico may accept more migrants expelled by U.S.

By COLLEEN LONG and MARIA VERZA

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador said Monday he would consider accepting more migrants than previously announced under President Joe Biden's plan to turn away people from four nations who cross illegally into the United States.

The comments came as López Obrador, Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were gathering in Mexico City for a meeting of the three North American leaders.

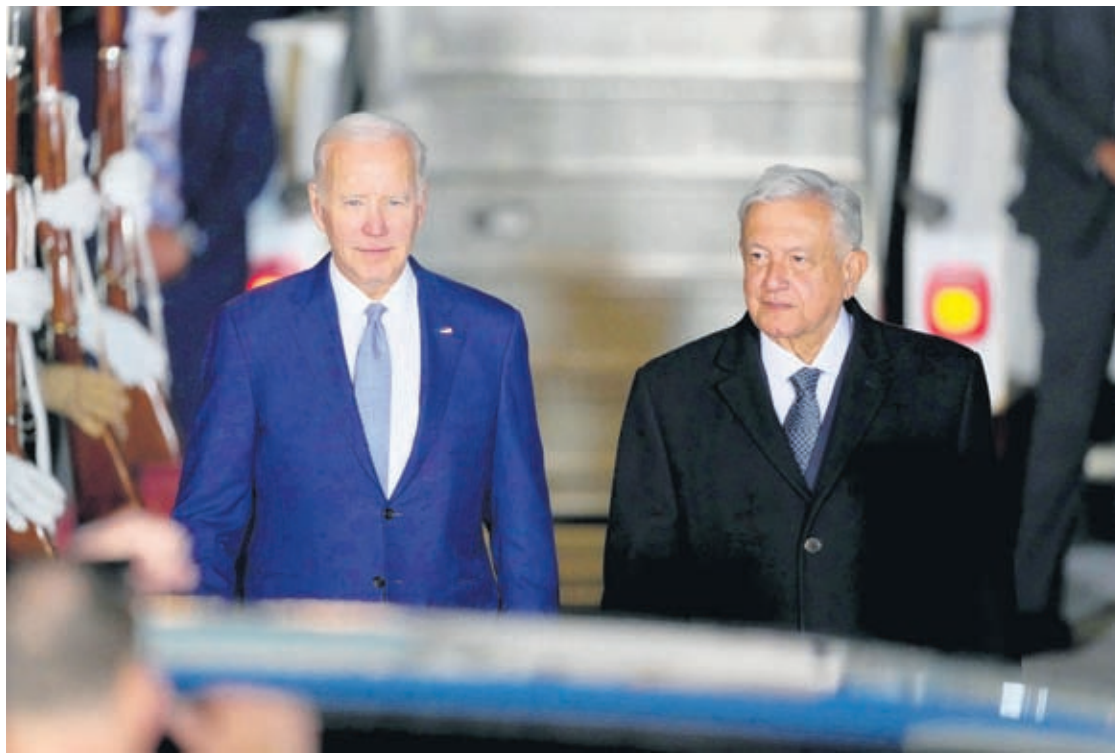
"We don't want to anticipate things, but this is part of what we are going to talk about at the summit," López Obrador said. "We support this type of measures, to give people options, alternatives," he said, adding that "the numbers may be increased."

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, cautioned nothing was decided yet.

"What we need is to see how the program announced last week works in practice, what if any adjustments need to be made to that program and then we can talk about taking the next steps," he said.

The comments were a reflection of the highly sensitive negotiations about immigration, which will be a central issue during the two-day summit. All three nations are involved in a collective effort to better support those arriving in North America and better enforce rules to make it harder for smugglers to persuade migrants to make dangerous trips to the U.S. Other issues on the summit table: climate change, energy and the supply chain. Sullivan said Monday the trip would be "a good opportunity for President Biden to deepen his personal engagement with President Lopez Obrador and Prime Minister Trudeau."

Ahead of the summit, Biden announced the policy shift with Mexico's bless-



U.S. President Joe Biden walks with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, at his arrival to the Felipe Angeles international airport in Zumpango, Mexico, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

ing: The U.S. will send 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela back across the border from among those who entered the U.S. illegally. Migrants who arrive from those countries are not easily returned to their home countries for a variety of reasons.

And, 30,000 people per month from those four nations who get sponsors, background checks and an airline flight will get the ability to work legally in the U.S. for two years.

Biden arrived in Mexico on Sunday night via the new Felipe Angeles International Airport, a prized project of the Mexican president. The hub was christened last year with fanfare, though it's more than an hour's drive north of the city center, has few flights and until recently lacked consistent drinking water.

The two leaders took the long drive into the city center in Biden's limousine. López Obrador was fascinated by the presidential vehicle known as "the beast," and said Biden showed it off to him.

"He himself showed me how the buttons work," Lopez Obrador said.

The Mexican president described the two leaders' first encounter of the trip

as "very pleasant," and he said "President Biden is a friendly person."

It was a notably warm comment given that the men's relationship has been merely transactional at best and absent the warmth and camaraderie Biden has with some other world leaders.

López Obrador said the two also discussed "the migration issue ... we agreed on addressing the causes of migration," by generating more opportunities for people so they wouldn't have to migrate.

He also talked about economic integration of the nations, calling "it is a dream we can make reality, which is to unite all the countries of the Americas."

On his way to Mexico, Biden stopped in El Paso, Texas, for four hours his first trip to the border as president and the longest he's spent along the U.S.-Mexico line. The visit was highly controlled and seemed designed to showcase a smooth operation to process migrants entering legally, weed out smuggled contraband and humanely treat those who've entered illegally. That would create a counter-narrative to Republicans' claims of a crisis situation equivalent to an open border.

But it was likely to do little to quell critics from both sides, including immigrant advocates who accuse the Democratic president of establishing cruel policies not unlike those of his hard-line predecessor, Republican Donald Trump.

The number of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically during Biden's first two years in office. There were more than 2.38 million stops during the year that ended Sept. 30, the first time the number topped 2 million. The administration has struggled to clamp down on crossings, reluctant to take measures that would resemble those of Trump's administration.

López Obrador will formally welcome Biden at the Palacio Nacional later Monday, the first time since 2014 that Mexico has hosted a U.S. president. The two leaders will meet together ahead of a private dinner for all three leaders and their wives. Biden and Trudeau will hold their own talks Tuesday, and then the three leaders will gather for the main summit discussions.

For the U.S., the major talking points are migration, drug trafficking and building on Biden's push on electric vehicles and

manufacturing. Mexico is focused on economic integration for North America, supporting the poor in the Americas and regional relationships that put all governments on equal footing. Canada is looking to expand on green initiatives.

While the three nations work together, they still have their differences.

The leaders of Canada and Mexico have voiced concerns over Biden's "Buy American" plan. And while Biden's push toward electric vehicles is a boon to both U.S. neighbors because of the tax credits for North American batteries, there's concern the U.S. allies will be left behind.

Meantime, the U.S. and Canada accuse López Obrador of trying to favor Mexico's state-owned utility over power plants built by foreign and private investors, something that's forbidden under the three countries' free trade pact. Biden's relationship with Trudeau is warmer, but he still hasn't made it to Canada during his presidency, despite White House officials saying for months he planned to head north following a summit of the Americas in Los Angeles last fall.

López Obrador skipped the California summit because Biden didn't invite the authoritarian regimes of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. He's also made no secret of his admiration for Trump. And he was one of only three world leaders who didn't recognize Biden's election victory until after the formal Electoral College vote and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. But despite this, they each recognize the other's importance.

"They are both consummate politicians," Andrew Selee, head of the immigration think tank Migration Policy Institute in Washington, said of Biden and López Obrador.

"They're looking for what the other person needs, and they're trying to make clear what they need. □

Thai prime minister joins new party to seek another term

By **CHALIDA EKVITTHAY-AVECHNUKUL** and **GRANT PECK**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has broken with the military-backed political party that helped him take office after a 2019 general election and joined a new rival party on Monday with which he is likely to seek another term this year. Prayuth first seized power as army chief in a 2014 military coup and then became prime minister in a military government. He did not run in the 2019 election but was the prime ministerial candidate of the Palang Pracharath Party, which put together a post-election coalition that named him to the nation's top political post.

On Monday, Prayuth formally joined Ruam Thai Sang Chart, or the United Thai Nation Party, which held its first meeting in August last year. The move had its roots in an often denied but barely concealed rift between him and Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, a close military comrade for decades who became leader of the Palang Pracharath Party in



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha , center, officially gestures as he announces he is joining the United Thai Nation Party as a newly-established party's candidate in Bangkok, Thailand, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

2020. Their political falling out became clear when Palang Pracharath announced that Prawit would be its candidate for prime minister in this year's general election, which must be held by May. Prawit is widely seen as harboring ambitions for the top job and seemed visibly energized last year while serving as acting prime minister when Prayuth was temporarily suspended for

legal reasons.

"I have been thinking how I could continue to solve the country's problems. I can't do this alone. I need a team, I need to work with what you call a political party," Prayuth told thousands of supporters wearing blue, red and white shirts, the colors of Thailand's flag.

There are questions about Prayuth's political viability. His popularity ratings

are low, with critics accusing him of mishandling the economy and botching Thailand's initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also limited by the constitution to serving a maximum of two more years as prime minister rather than a full term. The 2014-2019 military government arranged election laws to favor the Palang Pracharath, but the party's uninspiring performance

in office and the steady strength of civilian-led parties have eaten away at its advantages.

Puangthong Pawakapan, a political science professor at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, said Prayuth's move to a new party shows he is eager to stay in power.

"However, this coming election is not going to be easy for him.

Everyone knows that his new party is separate from the Palang Pracharath Party, but much weaker."

A main contender for the prime minister's job is Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul of the Bhumjai Thai party, a well-funded partner in Prayuth's coalition government.

It picked up many of the 14 members of Parliament who recently abandoned Palang Pracharath.

The main opposition party, Pheu Thai, remains popular. It is closely linked to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup, and the military's hostility to his political machine led to the downfall of Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, as prime minister in 2014 and another army takeover. □

United Arab Emirates says it will teach Holocaust in schools

By **JON GAMBRELL**

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates will begin teaching about the Holocaust in history classes in

primary and secondary schools across the country, the country's embassy in the United States said. The embassy provided no details on the curriculum and education authorities

in the Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, on Monday did not acknowledge the announcement. However, the announcement comes after the UAE normalized relations with Israel in 2020 as part of a deal brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump.

"In the wake of the historic (hashtag) Abraham Accords, (the UAE) will now include the Holocaust in the curriculum for primary and secondary schools," the embassy said in a tweet, referring to the normalization deal that also saw Bahrain and ultimately Morocco also recognize Israel.

Ambassador Deborah E. Lipstadt, the U.S. special envoy to monitor and com-

bat antisemitism, praised the announcement in her own tweet. "Holocaust education is an imperative for humanity and too many countries, for too long, continue to downplay the Shoah for political reasons," Lipstadt wrote, using a Hebrew word for the Holocaust. "I commend the UAE for this step and expect others to follow suit soon." The announcement comes as a meeting of the Negev Forum Working Groups, which grew out of the normalization, began in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Officials from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, the UAE and the U.S. are to attend. Egypt has diplomatically recognized Israel for decades. In the Holocaust, Nazi Ger-

many systematically killed 6 million European Jews during World War II. Israel, founded in 1948 as a haven for Jews in the wake of the Holocaust, grants automatic citizenship to anyone of Jewish descent. Other Arab nations have refused to diplomatically recognize Israel over its decades-long occupation of land Palestinians want for their future state. The announcement by the UAE also comes after the federation and other Arab nations condemned an ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet minister for visiting a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site last week, for the first time since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new far-right government took office. □



The Emirati and Israeli flags fly overhead as Israeli President Isaac Herzog gives a speech at Expo 2020 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Associated Press

Prime minister of Aruba met German ambassador dr. Cyrill Jean Nunn

ORANJESTAD – Prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes Monday morning had a meeting with German ambassador stationed in The Hague, the Netherlands, dr. Cyrill Jean nunn. This is the first time that Mr. Nunn is visiting Aruba.

Aruba falls under the management of the German embassy in The Hague. Accompanying Mr. Nunn was the honorary consul of Germany in Aruba, Mrs. Landa Cohen Henriquez-Jansen, and Mrs. Ghislaine Nicolas of the Directorate of Foreign Relations (DBB).

During the meeting, the prime minister informed Mr. Nunn about the situation of Aruba and its recovery after various crisis and their effect in the past years. Mr. Nunn expressed interest in knowing in which areas Aruba has the most need for assistance, so that he can help attract more German investors and tourists for Aruba. Some agreements were reached for this.

Mr. Nunn was very im-

pressed by the way in which Aruba is recovering as well as the desire and determination of Aruba to improve every day, and especially to come out of the pandemic better than we were before the pandemic.

"It was a good meeting which will tighten the bonds with other European countries to fortify our economy", Wever-Croes expressed.

Meeting with minister of Tourism and Public Health Aruban minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber received Mr. Nunn in a friendly encounter during which they discussed topics of common interest in the area of tourism and public health. Mrs. Henriquez-Jansen was also present at the meeting.

Minister Oduber shared the experience of how innovation and technology – through the Aruba Health App – helped Aruba deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The minister also explained how Aruba dealt with tourism after the Cov-

id-19 pandemic using innovation as a solution, where passengers could present their personal health data to airlines, hotels and all partners in the hospitality industry in a private and safe way.

The minister also discussed topics related to tourism. Aruba has a lot of interest in continuing the diversification of tourism and explore the German market. The idea is to try to bring an airline from Germany, as was the case with British Airways.

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The topic of medical care was also discussed. Minister Oduber finds it important to create good international cooperation with new partners and fortify existing ones. Germany is very advanced in this area, and the minister believes in the importance of innovation in health care and the way advanced technology can help improve the quality of care. □



Minister of Education signed agreement with dr. Gregory Richardson for Climate Challenges project

ORANJESTAD – Last week, the minister of Education and Sport, Mr. Endy Croes had a meeting with dr. Francio Guadeloupe, anthropologist and professor at the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Guadeloupe also works at the Dutch Academy of Sciences and is a Senior Researcher

at the Koninklijk Instituut for Taal, Land en Volkenkunde (KITLV). Present at the meeting was also the cultural anthropologist, Dr. Gregory Richardson.

Dr. Francio Guadeloupe leads the investigation Island(er)s at the Helm, which researches how the

six islands of the kingdom of the Netherlands are suffering under climate change, and what the inhabitants of the islands do to bring change in this aspect. The investigation is subsidized by the Royal Institute which budgeted three million euros for the Climate Challenges project.

For the next four years, Dr. Richardson will carry out investigation on the islands in the Dutch Caribbean, specifically in Aruba. He will investigate climate change and how people deal with it, specifically with aspects of culture, interactions to different ways to live traditionally and what this means for our society. It is a multidisciplinary investigation where different researchers from around the

world will be participating. Dr. Richardson emphasizes that the interesting part of the investigation is that it will be approached from different angles: cultural, archeological, musical, artistic and architectural aspects. How the people deal with different changes regarding sustainability. Aside from this, Dr. Richardson as educator will take the data and transfer it to develop a new curriculum to implement in schools for our youth to learn more about sustainable development and a change in mentality.

Dr. Guadeloupe thanked Minister Endy Croes who signed a contract for us to have one of two Arubans working in the project of Cli-

mate Challenges, namely Dr. Gregory Richardson. Dr. Guadeloupe continued saying that the climate challenge is very important for Aruba, we call it the climate challenge and not climate change, seeing that it is a challenge to reform Aruba; reform in the sense of acquiring sustainable development.

The investigation will be based on sustainable development of the youth. How we can ensure that future Arubans, the youth, the children can live on an island that will remain sustainable, remain habitable and a place where people can flourish. Minister Endy Croes wishes Dr. Richardson success with the investigation. □



Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the rest-rooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from



around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:

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The history of Aruba's Carnaval

After 2 years of absence, Aruba's wonderful Carnaval season has finally begun. The carnival season in Aruba is a unique opportunity to experience the cultural diversity of the Island with exciting parades, breathtaking costumes and a joyous atmosphere to be shared with visitors and locals alike.

According to the Visit Aruba website, the first signs of the carnival celebrations took place back in 1921, when many of the social clubs were having celebrations with costumes. These parties were mainly elite European-Style balls and costumed parties made to celebrate seasonal festivities. After a few years, the Americans in San Nicolas who were working in the Lago Oil Refinery introduced their own Euro-American style to the festivities. These festivities were mainly taking place around Halloween, Christmas and Carnival, becoming

the first few steps into the celebrations we know and love today.

In the following years, the Lago Oil Refinery started to reach higher levels of employment, with most of their recruits coming from Caribbean-English islands like Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guyana. These English immigrants were among the first to organize a parade in San Nicolas for the victory achieved during the second world war. These were the immigrants who enriched Aruba with the Trinidadian style of carnival.

The third era of the Aruban Carnival began when the native Aruban and English groups joined to plan the first public carnival that would be island wide. Hosted by the oldest social club of Aruba, the Tivoli social club, the representatives had meetings in order to coordinate their efforts towards a single grand pa-

rade in Oranjestad, combining floats, steel bands and costumed mas players. They also organized the first Carnival Queen Election.

The custom of having two organized grand parades began in 1957, the first being in San Nicolas and the second in Oranjestad. After 8 years, the calypso and roadmarch became an integral part of the carnival season when the calypso competitions were introduced.

The carnival we know now started during the fourth era, which started in the year 1966. This era saw the establishment of the Aruban Carnival Foundation and the establishment of the lighting parade.

Today, our Carnival has grown into one of the largest in the Caribbean with a month-long schedule of parades, queen elections and activities.



For more information about the schedule of Aruba's 69th Carnival, you can check back at Aruba today's publications and/or visit Aruba's carnival schedule. □



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that

indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a

fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to

cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated

“To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.



The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.☐

Aruba elects Prins and Pancho 2023



ORANJESTAD – In a Plaza Betico completely full, a new Prins and Pancho were elected for Aruba's 69th Carnival.

Carnival has certain fixed characters and activities. Momo (the Carnival king or Carnival spirit), Prince and Pancho (the prince and the clown), Carnival queen and princesses, the king or queen of Caiso, Soca and

Tumba contest.

There are all kinds of elections of princes, queens and musicians / bands. For example Mrs. Carnival, where only women over 26 can participate and the Prince & Pancho who are chosen as the best jokers. There are also many elections for the children, such as the Children's Queen Election.

The results for this year are as follows:

Children

PRINS BON: Dyshell Roga
PANCHO MUCHA: Aiden Harms

Youth

PRINS WISKUNDE: Lucas Geerman
PANCHO ALGEBRA: Shaq-ion van der Biezen



Grand

PRINS BON: Ivan Werleman
PANCHO FRESCO: Endrick Pannefle

Adult

PRINS THE SHOW: Tyson Croes
PANCHO MUST GO ON: Randolph Ras

Congratulations to all winners! □

Shiki crowned as Youth Queen Oranjestad for Champagne Group

ORANJESTAD – Last Friday at 6:30pm, Sheqayli Ascencion, "Shiki" was crowned as Youth Queen Oranjestad for Champagne Group.

Sheqayli is not an unknown figure, seeing as in 2014 she was crowned as Children's Queen of Aruba's 60th Carnival.

She said back then already that she wanted to be back on stage in order to compete also for Youth

Queen of Aruba's Carnival. Her plans were postponed because of the pandemic – as Aruba did not celebrate Carnival for two years – but even so, her focus remained on preparing to participate in the Youth Queen competition.

On Friday, she went to sign up for the Youth Queen election and she was accompanied by a small parade to Patio 15, where she



arrived with a brass band and guests. Seeing that it took place on Three Kings Day, three characters were chosen, who had special significance for her, to crown her. A young man who practically grew up with Shiki, who achieved his goals and showed that having physical challenges does not mean you cannot reach your goals, Disjon-

rick Jacobs; the talented young man, Paul Addison Croes and her grandfather, Rodney Westerburger, whose birthday it was on that day.

Champagne Group is celebrating 25 years in Carnival and it is an honor to represent them in a Youth Queen election for this year's Carnival.

Linchie Merryweather, head of Champagne Group, placed the sash on Shiki and then crowned her.

Shiki invites everyone to come support her this 21st of January for the Carnival Queen elections at the Renaissance Convention Center. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Drop
1 Set upon drastically

7 Gorillas
and gibbons

11 Oddball

12 Monument Valley sight

13 Gallant fellow's remark

15 Gown material

16 Foot features

18 Small statue

21 Copier problems

22 Tyrant

24 Log chopper

25 Simple card game

26 Regret

27 Look over

29 Past due

30 Store event

31 Foots the bill

32 Colorado resort

34 Michelle and Jill, for two

40 Composer Satie

41 Juice choice

42 Emst's art

DOWN

1 Piercing tool

2 Poseidon's place

3 Comic Caesar

4 Comes up

5 Brainstorms

6 Missing

7 Pretty good grade

8 For each

9 Snaky shape

10 Plopped down

14 Bran offering

ROUTE MOIST
EASEL INDIA
DREAM DELLS
KEPT ELK
BAKERIES
EMIT GREECE
TENTS MACAW
ANGLER NOSE
ELEMENTS
SAW FOOT
ALIBI STRAP
LOSES SLICE
TEETH YEMEN

Yesterday's answer

16 Price add-ons

17 Psi follower

19 Mist

20 Track tipsters

21 Mayo buy

22 Pop

23 Casual top

25 Take by force

28 Denali setting

29 Martin of "Ed Wood"

31 Strand unit

33 Settle heavily

34 Nourished

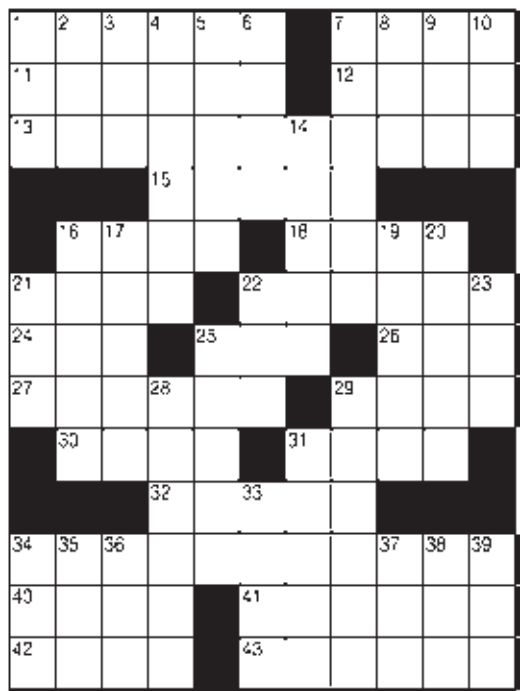
35 Writer Levin

36 Free (of)

37 Road-house

38 Easter find

39 Notice



1-10

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

RXT HFXC EXC K BQCBVR

JLGBJ WEG CEXQG RGBL?

CGQQ, WEKV WKYG K'Y XFQR

MXKFM WX JLGBJ XFG JBR BW

B WKYG, NEBLQKG DLXCF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE IS LIKE YOU KNOW, NIGHT. — STEVE MARTIN

Sneaky ways inflation affects your money in 2023

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

By now, you're probably familiar with the more obvious ways inflation affects your finances. Your money doesn't go as far at the grocery store, for example. Credit card and other variable-rate debt is getting more expensive as the Federal Reserve raises short-term interest rates to combat inflation. Rates are also rising, albeit more slowly, on savings accounts.

But other ways inflation helps or hurts have gotten less attention. Here are some of the major changes to watch for in 2023.

BIG TAX CHANGES BENEFIT MOST TAXPAYERS

The IRS raised the standard deduction, which is taken by more than 90% of taxpayers, by \$1,800 for married couples filing jointly and by \$900 for single filers. The standard deduction amounts in 2023 will be \$27,700 for married couples and \$13,850 for singles.

In addition, the IRS adjusted federal tax brackets upward by about 7%. The larger deduction, higher brackets and other changes mean most taxpayers will pay less in 2023, especially if their incomes haven't kept pace with inflation. □

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Jon Rahm gets another trophy and this one surprised even him

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) —

Jon Rahm thinks he has played as well as anyone of late, and he has three victories worldwide in his last five tournaments to show for it.

The latest was one he never saw coming.

Never mind that Rahm was seven shots behind Collin Morikawa at the start of the final round in the Sentry Tournament of Champions. Morikawa was playing so cleanly that he had yet to make a bogey at Kapalua. "I'm going to need a small miracle," Rahm said, and then when the Spaniard made bogey on the opening hole he said, "I was going to need somewhat of a larger miracle."

He got it, with help from Morikawa.

Rahm certainly did his part with a 10-under 63, playing the final seven holes with four birdies and an eagle for a two-shot victory. But this was as much about Morikawa, who looked for so long like the sure winner until his wedges and putter two areas he sought to improve let him down.

The tournament flipped during a wild hour on the Plantation Course at Kapalua in what amounted to



Jon Rahm, of Spain, holds the champions trophy after the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

a seven-shot swing in four holes.

Rahm made three straight birdies and then ripped an 8-iron to 12 feet on the par-5 15th to 12 feet for an eagle. Morikawa was two groups behind him, now 67 holes without a bogey, when he had a Maui meltdown that put him in the PGA Tour record book.

Morikawa is the ninth player to lose a six-shot lead going into the final round.

From 25 yards away, he bladed a bunker shot over

the 14th green. Facing a pitch up the steep slope to the par-5 15th, he muffed it. And his wedge to the 16th didn't carry the false front and ran 70 feet back to the fairway.

By then, it was too late. Morikawa's birdie on the 18th his first on Sunday since the sixth hole left him two shots behind, and the \$1.5 million was no consolation.

"I'm going to take two days off and enjoy Hawaii a little bit more," Morikawa said. "It's not going to be

as great, but it will still be good. My mind is already thinking about what we need to do. It's going to hurt, but I've got to get over it because we're still in the very early parts of the season."

So much of the focus was on a season that promised big riches, especially with "elevated" events the PGA Tour now calls them "designated" that average \$20 million purses to rival the big money on the Saudi-backed LIV Golf circuit.

Yes, it's early. And even if it was a win Rahm didn't see coming, it was quite a statement.

He was most disappointed in failing to register a top 10 in any of the majors last year.

But since August, with the start of the PGA Tour's post-season, Rahm has played nine times around the world and finished out of the top 10 only once.

He won the Spanish Open and DP World Tour Championship, and now he has his ninth PGA Tour victory, having one in each of his seven full years on tour.

"In my mind, I feel like since August I've been the best player in the world, and I think a lot of us should feel like a lot of times we're the best," Rahm said.

"Earlier in the year, clearly Scottie (Scheffler) was that player, then Rory (McIlroy) was that player, and I feel like right now it's been me." He could only wonder how he would have felt if not for Morikawa's shocking slide. A year ago, Rahm was 33-under par at Kapalua, which would have set a PGA Tour record except that Cameron Smith won at 34 under.

So that's 60 under in his last two appearances at Kapalua. □

Nets' Durant out at least 2 weeks with sprained right knee

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Kevin Durant has a sprained right knee and the Brooklyn Nets say he will miss at least two weeks.

Durant was hurt Sunday during the third quarter of the Nets' 102-101 victory in Miami after the Heat's Jimmy Butler fell into his knee. Durant grabbed at his knee and briefly remained in the game before asking to come out and going to the locker room.

He had an MRI on Monday that revealed an isolated sprain in his medial collateral ligament. The team said he would be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Durant has led the Nets

to 18 wins in their last 20 games and a 27-13 record, a game behind Boston for the best record in the NBA. He missed 21 games last season when he sprained his left MCL in January also when a player fell into him and the Nets fell apart. They went 5-16, tumbling down the standings, and their poor play without him contributed to Durant's disappointment with the franchise and trade request over the summer.

Durant eventually rescinded the request and has been playing some of the best basketball of his career this season. He is sixth in the league with 29.7 points per game and shooting a career-high 55.9% from the

field. Durant passed Dominique Wilkins to move into 14th place on the NBA's career scoring list earlier in Sunday's game.

Now the Nets will hope to better withstand his absence, believing they are better balanced than last season under coach Jacques Vaughn.

"The strength of our team is us picking each other up and just being ready for whatever's thrown at us," teammate Kyrie Irving said after the game.

The Nets play again Thursday when they host Boston in a nationally televised showdown. If Durant can return soon after the next evaluation, he could be ready to play in the Feb. 19

All-Star Game in Salt Lake City. The current leading vote-getter among Eastern Conference frontcourt

players had to miss the game because of injury last season. □



Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant warms up before an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

NFL playoffs: Seahawks are in field after Lions stun Packers

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

The NFL's Week 18 saved its best drama for the final game of the weekend. The Detroit Lions eliminated from playoff contention earlier Sunday when the Seahawks beat the Rams pushed past their disappointment and played the role of a spoiler, rallying to beat Green Bay 20-16 on Sunday night. The win denied quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Packers a spot in the postseason. Instead of Green Bay, it's the Seahawks who will be the No. 7 seed in the NFC. They'll travel to face division rival San Francisco in next weekend's wild-card round.

The rest of next weekend's schedule is also set: In the AFC, it'll be the Miami Dolphins at the Buffalo Bills, Baltimore Ravens at the Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Chargers at Jacksonville Jaguars. In the NFC, the Minnesota Vikings will host the New York Giants and the Tom Brady-led Tampa Bay Bucs host the Dallas Cowboys. The Lions' upset win capped a weekend that saw the Dolphins make it back to the playoffs for the first time since 2016. The surprising Jaguars also return to the postseason for just the second time since 2007. Seven of the 14 teams that qualified for the playoffs didn't make the field last season, including the Seahawks, Ravens, Jaguars, Chargers, Dolphins, Vikings and Giants. Among those headed home: The New England



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers stands on the field following an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis. The Lions won 20-16.

Associated Press

Patriots and six-time Super Bowl-winning coach Bill Belichick, eliminated after a loss to the Bills.

The Lions didn't have much to play for against the Packers other than pride, but that was enough. They were knocked out of playoff contention when Seattle's Jason Myers kicked a 32-yard field goal to beat the Los Angeles Rams 19-16 in overtime.

The No. 1 overall seed in the AFC was claimed by Kansas City with its 31-13 win over Las Vegas on Saturday. The NFC's top spot was taken by Philadelphia, which beat the New York Giants 22-16 on Sunday.

The AFC bracket could still be affected by the cancellation of the Bills-Bengals game after Hamlin's injury. The Bengals avoided a

coin flip for home field after beating the Ravens 27-16, but there still could be a neutral field AFC championship game if the Bills line up against the Chiefs.

Here's a look at some other developments as the postseason approaches:

WHAT'S THE WILD-CARD SCHEDULE?

SATURDAY

Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers, 4:30 p.m. ET, FOX

Los Angeles Chargers at Jacksonville Jaguars, 8:15 p.m. ET, NBC

SUNDAY

Miami Dolphins at Buffalo Bills, 1 p.m. ET, CBS

New York Giants at Minnesota Vikings, 4:30 p.m. ET, FOX

Baltimore Ravens at Cincinnati Bengals, 8:15 p.m. ET, NBC

MONDAY

Dallas Cowboys at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 8:15 p.m. ET, ESPN/ABC

WHAT'S THE FORMAT FOR THE PLAYOFFS?

This is the third straight year of the current NFL playoff format, which includes the top seven teams from both the AFC and the NFC.

The four division winners in both conferences automatically get the top four seeds, regardless of record, and then the top three teams with the best record that didn't win their division are the wild-card selections. That's why it's fairly common for a wild-card selection to have a better record but worse playoff seeding than a team that finished as a division winner.

The No. 1-seeded team in

each conference gets a bye into the second round that's the Chiefs and Eagles while No. 2 hosts No. 7, No. 3 hosts No. 6 and No. 4 hosts No. 5 during wild-card weekend.

The NFL has a re-seeding policy after each playoff round.

That means that no matter how the bracket started, the lowest-seeded team will always travel to the higher-seeded team.

There are four rounds to the playoffs: The wild-card round is during the upcoming weekend, the divisional round is Jan. 21-22, the conference championship games are on Jan. 29 and the Super Bowl is scheduled for Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona.

WHAT CHANGED WITH THE BILLS-BENGALS CANCELLATION?

It's been an eventful week for players and fans, who watched in horror Monday night as Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field and had to be given CPR before leaving the field in an ambulance. A few days later, those same players and fans have watched with joy as Hamlin recovers.

That made it much easier to focus on Week 18 and now the playoffs.

The Bills-Bengals game had major playoff implications in the AFC, so the cancellation of the game due to Hamlin's injury could force some changes depending on playoff results.

The AFC championship game will be played on a neutral site if the Chiefs and Bills reach that point. □

Falcons defensive coordinator Pees, 73, announces retirement

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta Falcons defensive coordinator Dean Pees announced his retirement on Monday, one day after completing his second season with the team.

Pees, 73, is ending a 50-year career in football. He previously coached 16 years in the NFL, including a combined 12 seasons as the defensive coordinator

at Tennessee (2018-19), Baltimore (2012-17) and New England (2006-09).

The Falcons capped a 7-10 season with Sunday's 31-10 win over Tampa Bay.

Over the final nine games of the season, Pees' defense limited opponents to 25 or fewer points in each game. The Falcons ranked 10th in the league in scoring defense over that span.

Overall, the Falcons ranked 27th in total defense, allowing 362.1 yards per game. Atlanta ranked 31st with 21 sacks. Pees was forced to miss the Falcons' 21-18 loss at New Orleans on Dec. 18 when he was briefly hospitalized after being knocked to the ground in a pregame collision with Saints returner Rashid Shaheed, who was trying to field a punted ball

during warmups.

Pees was placed on a stretcher, carted off the field and taken to University Medical Center in New Orleans. He was released and returned with the team to Atlanta before resuming his lead role of the defensive staff the following week.

Falcons linebackers coach Frank Bush, who filled in for Pees as the play-caller

against the Saints, could be a leading contender if coach Arthur Smith chooses his next defensive coordinator from the staff.

Between 1979 and 2003, Pees coached in various capacities at Findlay, Miami (Ohio), Navy, Toledo, Notre Dame, Michigan State and finally Kent State, where he was head coach from 1998-2003. □

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Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the

Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a



nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular

ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

